respect of Bombay, Calcutta and Nhava-Sheva from Rs. 150 lakhs to Rs. 400 lakhs; Madras from Rs. 100 lakhs to Rs. 400 lakhs; Cochin and Visakhapatnam from Rs. 100 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs and other ports from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs.

Leasing of aircraft by Indian Airlines

87. SHRI RAJN1 RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given blanket permission to Indian Airlines to procure aircraft on lease; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the number of aircraft procured by Indian Airlines so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, with the approval of the Government, entered into an agreement with M/s Airbus Industries for the .purchase of 19 A-320 aircraft for deliveries during 1989-90. The purchase agreement *inter alia* provides for supply of Airbus A300 and Boeing 737 aircraft on lease to Indian Airlines to meet its inttrim capacity requirements. In terms of this agreement, Indian Airlines has so far taken on lease the following aircraft :—

Airbus A300 aircraft	— Two
Boeing-737- aircraft	— Five

One Airbus A300 aircraft taken on lease met with an accident in September, 1986 and was declared a total loss.

Indian Airlines has also taken on lease the following aircraft:—

BAE-146	— One
TU-154M	— One
A310 (from Air-India)	— One

Conversion of Hassan-Mangalorc MG-Linc

88. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert Hassan-Mangalorc metre gauge line into broad gauge and to construct a direct broad gauge rail line from Hassan to Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects, their costs and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rate of delays in Indian Airlines flights

89. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the average rate of delays in Indian Airlines on their domestic routes during 1986, 1987, 1988 and January, 1989;

(b) what are the reasons for increase; if any, in the average rate;

(c) what is the average rate of delays in the foreign airlines on their domestic routes; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Indian Airlines to curtail the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) The average rate of delays to Indian Airlines flights on the domestic sectors during the period 1986, 1987

1988 and January 1989, < *r/as* as follows

Years		Average rate of delays/ cancellations
1986	1989	24.77
1987		25.59
1988		37.64
January		48.95

(b) Due to capacity constraints there has been increase in the consequential delays which .resulted in increase in average rate of delays to Indian Airlines flights.

(c) No statistics of delays of foreign airlines on their domestic routes are available.

(d) The following steps have been taken to curtail delays to Indian Airlines flights;

(i) Overall utilisation of Boeing aircraft has been reduced so as to provide stand by capacity at base stations;

(ii) Additional aircraft have, been leased from various sources; and

(iii) Punctuality of flights is being constantly monitored at various levels.

Refusal to expand Vayudoot operation*

90. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has refused to allow expan sion of Vayudoot operations; and

(b) if so, what a^e the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATEIN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has not been against expansion of short distance flights by Vayudoot. However, they are of the opinion that since such operations increase fuel consumption par Revenue Passenger Kilometre which would in turn nacessitate higher passenger fares the situation needs to be avoided.

New air safety rules

91. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate new air safety rules in view of the expansion of air fleet and also the inclusion of new aircraft from abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the pilots are able to fly foreign aircraft in a safe manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) A» and when need arises the rules are modified.

(b) At present there is no proposal to amend the rules and as such no details can be given.

(c) The pilots fly the aircraft after adequate training and receiving the appropriate licences.

Acquisition of Yak-42 aircraft from USSR

92. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM, be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot proposed to acquire 120-seater Russian: Aircraft Yak-42 from April, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of this aircraft as compared to other aircraft being manufactured by well known companies;

(c) whether the Vayudoot intend to operate these aircraft on long-haul routes only; and